

Case 3661***Apion longirostre* Olivier, 1807 (currently *Rhopalapion longirostre*; Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of usage of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 81.2.1 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Apion longirostre* Olivier, 1807 for the well-known apionid beetle (family APIONIDAE) from western Palaearctic and Nearctic Regions by suppressing the name *Apion longirostre* Gravenhorst, 1807, senior primary homonym of the former.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; Curculionoidea; APIONIDAE; *Apion longirostre*; *Rhopalapion*; Palaearctic; Nearctic.

1. The name *Apion longirostre* was established by Gravenhorst, 1807 (p. 198) for an unspecified number of specimens without indication of provenance. Successively this name was used as valid only three times, by Germar (1819, p. 126), by Alonso-Zarazaga (2011, p. 176) who placed the taxon among the APIONIDAE ‘incertae sedis’ and by Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (2014). All these authors just listed the name. Careful researches attempting to find syntypes which might possibly have been stored in the historical collections of the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität in Berlin were in vain (Winkelmann, pers. comm.), and so *Apion longirostre* Gravenhorst, 1807 is currently considered a nomen dubium.

2. In the same year Olivier (1807, p. 35), clearly unaware of Gravenhorst’s paper, described a different species under the same name *Apion longirostre*. About a century later, Schilsky (1906, p. V) designated *Apion longirostre* Olivier, 1807 the type species by monotypy of the subgenus *Rhopalapion* Schilsky, 1906, taxon subsequently elevated to genus by Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 (p. 71). *Rhopalapion longirostre* (Olivier) has been cited as valid in numerous publications in the last 50 years; more than 100 works have dealt with this species, e.g. Alonso-Zarazaga (1990, p. 71); Compte-Sart (1992, p. 615); Schmitz & Maczey, (1993, p. 111); Wanat (1993, p. 54); Behne (1994, p. 206); Abbazzi et al. (1995, p. 9); Poussereau (1995, p. 26); Perrin (1995, p. 67); Kahlen & Hellrigl (1996, 493); Knutelski & Petryszak (1997, p. 52); Reibnitz (2001, p. 140); Colonnelli (2003, p. 30); Cantot & Pelletier (2004, p. 118); Stejskal (2004, p. 77); Osella et al. (2005, p. 35); Braunert (2006, p. 150); Mazur (2007, p. 53); Ugarte San Vicente & Salguera Cerezo (2008, p. 117); Germann et al. (2008, p. 152); Poussereau & Voisin (2009, p. 123); Tuba & Lakatos (2010, p. 886); Bârcă et al. (2011, p. 80); Mazur (2011, p. 55); Avgın & Colonnelli (2011, p. 13560) and Alziar & Lemaire (2012, p. 66). *Rhopalapion longirostre* is one of the most easily recognizable

apionid species, harmful to hollyhock and cotton (Malvaceae), and widespread in the western Palaearctic and Nearctic Regions.

3. Gravenhorst's and Olivier's publications are both dated 1807 and the 31st December 1807 has been hitherto adopted as their date, according to Article 21.3.2 of the Code. However, a book review (Anonymous, 1807, p. 441) shows that Gravenhorst's work was already available at least on March 19, 1807, whilst at present there is no evidence about the precise date of publication of the Olivier's 5th volume. As a consequence, *Apion longirostre* Gravenhorst becomes a senior primary homonym of *Apion longirostre* Olivier.

4. Since the conditions of Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code are not met (the senior name has been used after 1899), the automatic reversal of precedence under Article 23.9.2 of the Code is not possible. The introduction of a new name for the junior primary homonym *Apion longirostre* Olivier, 1807 would cause confusion and would compromise nomenclatural stability in this beetle group.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the specific name *longirostre* Gravenhorst, 1807, as published in the binomen *Apion longirostre*, and all uses of the name before Olivier (1807), for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *longirostre* Olivier, 1807, as published in the binomen *Apion longirostre*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *longirostre* Gravenhorst, 1807, as published in the binomen *Apion longirostre* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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